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ABSTRACT

This book offers teachers some information about many of the newest children's books as well as over 125 kid-tested and teacher-approved ways to extend these stories into other areas of the curriculum. It aims to enable teachers to enhance their professional judgment about using literature in the classroom; guide teachers toward getting their students "hooked on books"; aid teachers in designing opportunities for children to respond to literature; and suggest ways of making literature an even more valuable classroom resource. Part 1 sets the stage for using literature with children. Chapter 1, "Why Should I Use Literature in My Classroom?," describes the numerous values and benefits of using quality literature selections with children. Chapter 2, "A Response-Centered, Literature-Rich Classroom" helps those who work with children to understand how critical active involvement with literature is. Part 2 gives teachers the opportunity to look closely at themselves and their beliefs. In chapter 3, "Before Bringing Children and Books Together," readers are asked to consider their own personal philosophy about how children learn. Part 3, The Reality of Using Literature, examines the incorporation of literature into reading programs. Chapter 4, "Incorporating Literature into the Classroom," examines how teachers begin making the transition, and chapter 5, "Choosing Appropriate Books and Activities," gives readers the tools and guidance to select the books that are best for their audience. Part 4, "A Resource for Teachers: Practical Ideas," consists of chapter 6, "Kid-Tested and Teacher-Approved Literature Ideas," which provides resources to support teachers as they use technology to research literature related topics. An appendix offers six templates, patterns, and support for literature extensions. (RS)

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